

NEVADA SUPREME COURT COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

Linguists estimate that there are about 6,000-7,000 different languages spoken in the world today. According to the Ethnologue language database, a total of 364 languages are spoken in the United States at first language level; of those, 176 are indigenous languages, and 188 are immigrant languages.

Although the U.S. Constitution does not specifically guarantee the right to an interpreter for court proceedings, this right has been established by application of the Sixth Amendment (defendant's right to confront adverse witnesses and his/her right to participate in his own defense, including the assistance of counsel) as well as the Fifth Amendment (due process clause), as applied to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment. The interpreter protects those rights by ensuring the defendant's "presence" when his case is heard, providing a complete interpretation of everything that is said in court.

"IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON TO ACT AS A CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER OR ADVERTISE OR PUT OUT ANY SIGN OR CARD OR OTHER DEVICE WHICH MIGHT INDICATE TO THE PUBLIC THAT HE IS ENTITLED TO PRACTICE AS A CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE AS AN INTERPRETER ISSUED BY THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR PURSUANT TO NRS 1.510 AND 1.520."
(NRS 1.540)



LEGAL BASIS

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.
- Executive Order 13166 entitled "Improving Access to Services by Persons with Limited English Proficiency." (2000)
- United States Department of Justice—Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons.
- Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), Chapter 1.

For further information please contact:

Nevada Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts
Certified Court Interpreter Program
200 Lewis Avenue, 17th floor
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Phone | 702.486.9332
Fax | 702.486.3733

<http://www.nevadajudiciary.us/index.php/court/interpreterprogram>

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF
THE COURTS
CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER
PROGRAM



NEVADA SUPREME COURT COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

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CALENDAR OF COURT INTERPRETER CREDENTIALING EVENTS

- **January** – Orientation Workshop and Written Examination
- **July** – Written Examination Retake
- **September** – Oral Performance Examinations

***Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI)** may be scheduled anytime during the year after steps I and II have been completed.

HOW TO BECOME A NEVADA COURT INTERPRETER

Step I

2-Day **Orientation Workshop for Prospective Court Interpreters** Attendance.

Step II

To Pass **Written Examination** (minimum 80%).

Step III

To Pass **Oral Performance Examination** (70% minimum) or to pass **Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)** if no Oral Performance Examination is currently available for your language of expertise.

Step IV

Completion of **Nevada Courts Observation Requirement of 40 hours**.

Step V

To Undergo **Criminal History Check** with the Nevada Department of Public Safety.

Step VI

Other Requirements (i.e., Submission of a Request for Certification Form, Payment of an Administrative Fee, Oath).

CURRENT COURT INTERPRETER DESIGNATIONS IN NEVADA

Certified – in the following languages: Arabic, Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Ilocano, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Registered – languages other than those listed above.

While there are no specific educational requirements for court interpreter credential, those who obtain it possess **language skills, knowledge and abilities** equivalent to an educated, native-like speaker, they are able to interpret accurately and completely in three modes – **sight translation, consecutive and simultaneous**, and adhere to a **Code of Professional Responsibility in Nevada**.

NEVADA COURT CREDENTIALLED INTERPRETER ROSTER

The Nevada Certified Court Interpreter Program compiles and maintains a list of all Nevada Court Interpreters who have successfully finalized their court interpreter credential pursuit. The list is regularly updated and it contains information regarding languages currently available for competent language assistance, interpreter's contact information, interpreter's place of residence, his/her availability to assist rural Nevada jurisdictions and if he/she is in a good standing with the Program – for further information please go to <http://www.nevadajudiciary.us/index.php/nvcourtintroster>.